

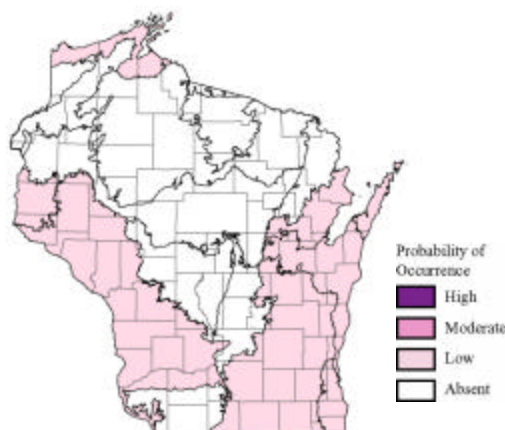
American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	5
State threats:	NA
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	2
Global distribution:	NA
Global threats:	NA
Global population trend:	4
Mean Risk Score:	3.5**
Area of importance:	1

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.

** Based on fewer than the standard 7 criteria.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Lake Michigan
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Warmwater rivers
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Lake Michigan
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Warmwater rivers
Southeast Glacial Plains	Warmwater rivers
Southern Lake Michigan Coastal	Lake Michigan
Southern Lake Michigan Coastal	Warmwater rivers
Superior Coastal Plain	Lake Superior
Superior Coastal Plain	Warmwater rivers
Western Coulee and Ridges	Warmwater rivers
Western Prairie	Warmwater rivers

Threats and Issues

- This species lives in Great Lakes and large river habitats and migrates long distances to spawn in the Sargasso Sea. Dams without fishways eliminate (upstream) habitat for this species where juveniles feed and mature for multiple years.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Construction of fishways around dams is needed to allow juvenile female american eels access to their preferred upstream habitats--the muddy bottoms and still waters of large streams and lakes.
- The **rock pocketbook mussel** is also a Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Because the juvenile stages of this mussel use American eels as a host, actions taken to preserve the American eel may aid conservation of Rock pocketbook mussel populations.